

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 are currently pending. By this Amendment, claims 34 and 52 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 34 and 52 can be found in the specification, for example, at paragraph [0008]. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Gauthier at the interview held June 11, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 7, 19, 22, and 40 contain allowable subject matter and that claims 42-50 are allowed. However, for at least the reasons discussed below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 51 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed towards non-statutory subject matter. As agreed during the personal interview, by this Amendment, claims 51 and 52 overcome the rejection. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

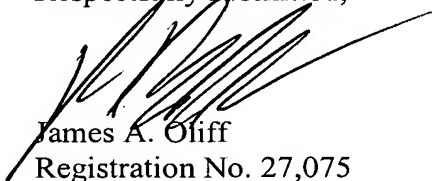
Claims 1-6, 8-18, 20, 21, 23-39, 41, 51 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sakata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,442,685) in view of Peavey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,533,103). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, independent claims 1, 34 and 51 and 52 overcome the applied references. Thus, claims 2-6, 8-18, 20, 21, 23-33, 35-39 and 41, which variously depend from claims 1 and 34, also overcome the applied references. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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